



## Jay M. Boyar

November 19, 1953 - May 3, 2019

Jay Boyar died Friday, May 3, 2019, with his family by his bedside. He was born in Brooklyn, NY, on November 19, 1953, but grew up in Buffalo, NY (Amherst, if you want to get technical).

Jay's writing has been featured in numerous newspapers and magazines. He appeared on Television and was heard on the radio. Blending his wit and knowledge of film, he was known for his movie critiques, which led to his co-founding of the Florida Film Critics Circle.

He published two books, *Films to Go: 100 Memorable Movies for Travelers & Others*, and *Be a Magician! How to Put on a Magic Show and Mystify Your Friends*. Jay was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for feature writing and won the Associated Press Prize in the same category. He also won numerous other prizes and awards for his work.

Most recently, he enjoyed being an adjunct professor, teaching film and writing at both the University of Central Florida and Rollins College. Jay received his BA in English Literature at the State University of New York at Buffalo, graduating Summa Cum Laude with departmental honors.

Jay is predeceased by his father Samuel, mother Louise (Jay), as well as his brother, Randy. He is survived by his wife Debbie Beckman, son Evan Boyar,

brothers Allen and Ben (Jeanne), and nephews Nathan (Colleen) and Steven.  
He will be missed.

# Cemetery Details

## Temple Israel Cemetery

9200 Morton Jones Rd.  
Gotha, FL 34734

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

MAY 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

Temple Israel Cemetery  
9200 Morton Jones Rd.  
Gotha, FL 34734

# Tribute Wall

AN

“ Professor Boyar was an outstanding teacher. One of those that made school something to look forward to. I didn't always agree with him on his views on movies, but this only made my relationship with him even more exciting. I'm so shocked, didn't expect this. My condolences to his family.



Anonymous - May 06, 2019 at 03:59 AM

TF

“ The Lougheed Family purchased the Kosher Tower of Treats for the family of Jay M. Boyar.



The Lougheed Family - May 05, 2019 at 10:18 PM

MP

“ Jay and I were regular lunch partners at the Sentinel for years, and we got together sporadically after we left the paper. Mostly I listened, because he was so entertaining. He had perhaps the most dry, wry sense of humor of anyone I have ever met. He was extremely insightful on movies (and TV) of course, but also outside those areas. I remember he predicted that Republican challenger Arnold Schwarzenegger would unseat sitting Democratic California Governor Gray Davis. I had been writing about politics for decades, and I thought he was nuts -- he was right! And I was cautious never to get him started on "The English Patient," which he thought was grossly overrated. We had some wonderful times together, and he gave me some extremely helpful comments on my book manuscripts, starting with The Simpsons. I will miss him.

Mark Pinsky - May 05, 2019 at 06:57 PM

MD

“ Jay was an excellent teacher and I am glad to have had the opportunity to work with him over the years. Students loved him, and his classes filled up as soon as the course was opened. He will be missed.

---

**Martin D Dupuis** - May 04, 2019 at 09:36 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jay M. Boyar.



---

May 04, 2019 at 06:02 PM

MM

“ *The friendship I had with Jay covered a lot of territory. I loved getting him to talk about movies and the various interviews he'd done with movie stars over the years. We talked enough that I got a sense of what a good listener he was; I think he was very good at drawing people out. We made each other laugh - somehow we were on the same bandwidth when it came to humor. We both taught at UCF and Rollins; we both had stories to tell each other about the good and the bad of being journalists; we both wound up banging around in the world of magazine freelancing after things went sour for newspapers and we wound up leaving the Sentinel. Jay could be persnickety -- if he were around to hear me say that we'd probably have a discussion about the connotation and denotation of that word -- but he was, above all, one of the most gentle souls I've ever encountered. He wouldn't let me get away with being grumpy without asking me what the source of it was. I could be wrong but I have a feeling he was like that with everybody. I remember he told me about interviewing Spike Lee once, and Spike got really angry and worked up because of the subject they were on, and Jay said: "You seem really upset. Did I say something wrong?" Apparently, Spike said: "Naw. That's just me." But of course, that was also just Jay. I'll miss our lunches. I'll miss our talks. I'll miss the way he would examine an idea, hold it up to the light and see something I would have missed. He was a really good friend, in a lot of ways, and I'll miss him in a lot of ways, too.*

---

**Michael McLeod** - May 04, 2019 at 03:16 PM